

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

transmitting data symbols from a media access control layer (MAC) processing element to a second processor; and

monitoring a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value at the MAC processing element to determine if the data symbols have been completely transmitted from a system transmitter.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining whether the RSSI value drops below a predetermined threshold.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising monitoring the RSSI value if it is determined that the RSSI value has not dropped below the predetermined threshold.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising setting one or more timers if it is determined that the RSSI value has dropped below the predetermined threshold.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the second processor is a baseband processor.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising a network controller, the network controller including a media access layer (MAC) digital signal processor (DSP)

~~that monitors to monitor~~ a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to identify that the transmission of all data symbols from the network controller has been completed.

7. (Original) The computer system of claim 6 wherein the network controller further comprises a baseband DSP coupled to the MAC DSP, wherein the MAC DSP begins to monitor the RSSI value after all data symbols have been transmitted from the media access layer DSP to the baseband DSP.

8. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the baseband DSP comprises:

- a baseband state machine;
- a coding element coupled to the baseband state machine; and
- a modulation element coupled to the coding.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 8 wherein the network controller further comprises:

- a digital to analog converter (DAC) DSP coupled to the baseband DSP; and
- an analog to digital converter (ADC) DSP coupled to the baseband DSP.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 9 wherein the network controller further comprises:

- a transceiver that transmits the RSSI to the MAC DSP; and
- an antenna coupled to the transceiver.

11. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 further comprising:
a system input/output (I/O) bus coupled to the network controller;

a bridge/memory controller coupled to the system I/O bus; and
a processor coupled to the bridge/memory controller.

12. (Currently Amended) A network controller comprising:
a media access layer (MAC) digital signal processor (DSP) that monitors to
monitor a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to identify that the transmission
of all data symbols from the network controller has been completed;
a baseband DSP, coupled to the MAC DSP; and
a digital to ~~audio~~ analog converter DSP coupled to the baseband DSP.

13. (Original) The network controller of claim 12 wherein the baseband DSP
comprises:
a baseband state machine;
a coding element coupled to the baseband state machine; and
a modulation element coupled to the coding element.

14. (Original) The network controller of claim 12 further comprising:
a transceiver, coupled to the DAC DSP, that transmits the RSSI to the MAC DSP;
and
an antenna coupled to the transceiver.

15. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture including one or more computer
readable media that embody a program of instructions wherein the program of
instructions, when executed by a media access control layer (MAC) processing element
processing unit, causes the MAC processing element processing unit to:
transmit data symbols from the MAC ~~a media access control layer (MAC)~~; and

monitor a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to determine if the data symbols have been completely transmitted from a system transmitter.

16. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 15 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a processing unit, further causes the processing unit to determine whether the RSSI value drops below a predetermined threshold.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a processing unit, further causes the processing unit to monitor the RSSI value if it is determined that the RSSI value has not dropped below the predetermined threshold.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a processing unit, further causes the processing unit to set one or more timers if it is determined that the RSSI value has dropped below the predetermined threshold.